

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed January 12, 2005, claims 1-14, 18-20, and 23-25 were rejected as being anticipated by the disclosure of the U.S. Patent of Spencer et al. No. 5,816,453. Claims 15-17, 21, and 22 were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosure of the Spencer reference when combined with the disclosure of the U.S. Patent of Tada No. 4,589,573.

Originally filed claims 1-25 have been cancelled herein, and replaced with new claims 26-50. Of new claims 26-50, claims 26, 36, and 43 are independent claims. It is respectfully submitted that these new claims recite subject matter of the invention that is not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record.

New claim 26 recites the manually operated liquid dispenser comprising a pump chamber having a cylindrical wall, a dispenser housing containing the pump chamber, the dispenser housing having a top wall and a pair of side walls that surround the pump chamber with the entire pump chamber being spaced inwardly from and separated from each of the dispenser top wall and side walls, and a pump plunger mounted to the dispenser housing for reciprocating movement, the pump plunger having a discharge passage that communicates with the pump chamber interior volume. This novel construction of the dispenser housing provides an exterior surface that is spaced outwardly from the pump chamber wall and thereby provides a comfortable surface for gripping by the user's hand. The comfortable configuration provided by the dispenser of the invention achieved by the dispenser housing top wall and side walls being spaced

outwardly from the entire pump chamber is not disclosed or suggested by the Spencer or Tada references.

The Spencer reference discloses a pump chamber that is positioned immediately adjacent and in contact with the dispenser housing. Likewise, the Tada reference discloses a pump chamber that is positioned immediately adjacent and in contact with the dispenser housing. Both references fail to anticipate the subject matter of new claim 26, and fail to provide any suggestion of the subject matter of new claim 26 that would render that subject matter obvious. In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 26, and its dependent claims 27-35 are all allowable over the prior art of record.

In a like manner, new independent claim 36 recites a manually operated liquid dispenser comprising a pump chamber with a cylindrical pump wall, a dispenser housing having walls containing the pump chamber, a pump plunger mounted to the dispenser housing for reciprocating movement, the pump plunger having a center tube with a liquid discharge passage extending through the center tube, and the pump plunger having a top wall and a pair of side walls that surround the center tube with the entire center tube being spaced inwardly and separated from each of the pump plunger top wall and side walls. This claim also describes the novel positioning of the plunger top wall and side walls spaced outwardly from the plunger center tube that provides a comfortable exterior surface for gripping by the user's hand. The positioning of the pump plunger top wall and side walls outwardly from the plunger center tube is not disclosed or suggested by the Spencer or Tada references.

The Spencer reference discloses a pump plunger having a side wall that also defines the exterior side walls and exterior surface of the pump plunger. The Tada

reference discloses a pump plunger having a top wall that forms a portion of the tube containing the liquid discharge passage of the plunger. Thus, both prior art references fail to anticipate or make obvious the subject matter of new claim 36, and claim 36 and its dependent claims 37-42 are all allowable over the prior art of record.

New independent claim 43 recites the liquid dispenser of the invention comprising a pump chamber having a cylindrical wall, a dispenser housing containing the pump chamber, a pump plunger mounted to the dispenser housing for reciprocating movement of the plunger relative to the pump chamber, the pump plunger having a liquid discharge passage that communicates with the pump chamber, and a flexible, resilient bulb connecting the pump plunger to the pump chamber cylindrical wall, the bulb having an integral tubular output valve and an integral tubular input valve. These features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested by the Spencer or Tada references.

The Spencer reference fails to disclose a resilient bulb, much less a tubular output valve and a tubular input valve that are formed integrally with the bulb.

The Tada reference discloses a pump that employs a resilient bulb, however the reference fails to disclose any suggestion of a tubular output valve and a tubular input valve that are integrally formed with the bulb. The integral tubular input and output valves of the invention provide for the simplified construction of the liquid dispenser. This feature of the invention is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art, and therefore new independent claim 43 and its dependent claims 44-50 are all allowable over the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, the application is in condition for allowance and a favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Thompson Coburn LLP

By: Joseph M. Rolnicki
Joseph M. Rolnicki
Reg. No. 32,653
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63101-1693
(314) 552-6286